

Abergele Urban District Council



ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR 1964

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FREDERICK P. PEACH, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

which includes the

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FRANK EVANS, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Housing and Health Committee 1964-65

Councillor TREVOR WILLIAMS (Chairman).

Councillor GORONWY HUGHES (Vice-Chairman).

Councillors

| | |
|----------------|----------------------|
| A. Brocklebank | R. Lawton |
| K. G. Bould | C. R. Little |
| C. Chadwick | Mrs. M. Lyons, C.C. |
| A. J. Easy | H. J. Manifold, C.C. |
| T. E. Edwards | J. T. Parry |
| O. A. Hughes | M. Pritchard |
| A. E. Jones | W. H. Smith |
| D. E. Jones | R. E. Williams |
| H. H. Jones | G. F. Wood |
| P. I. L. Jones | |

Staff of the Health Department 1964-65

Medical Officer of Health :

Wm. McKENDRICK, M.D., D.P.H.
(Retired August, 1964.)

FREDERICK P. PEACH, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
(1st September, 1964.)

Public Health Inspector :

FRANK EVANS, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.
Cert. Meat and Other Foods.
Cert. Smoke Inspection.

(2)

The Civic Centre,
Colwyn Bay.

16th July, 1965.

To the Chairman and Members,
Health Committee of Abergele U.D.C.

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you my Annual Report on the health of the district for 1964. This is my first annual report to you.

I took up duties as your Medical Officer on September 1st, 1964, on the retirement of Dr. Wm. McKendrick.

The total number of live births during the year was 141, whilst the deaths recorded numbered 149. This is a natural decrease of 8. The Registrar General's estimated population for mid 1964 is 9,000—an increase of 800 over the mid 1963 estimate. Therefore, if these figures are to be accepted, then the increase in population must be due to migrants into the area.

The birth rate is higher than that for 1963 whilst the death rate is lower. This is, of course, influenced by the increase in population referred to on figures supplied by the Registrar General. The infant mortality rate has shown a decrease over the past four years. The infant deaths were all under four weeks of age and were all associated with prematurity.

Good housing is inseparable from community health. Many of the problems are not directly related to insanitary conditions but to psychological stress, imposed by overcrowding, incompatibility, where young people are forced to live with relatives, and poor amenities in flats and houses in multiple occupation. These problems have increased with early marriage and a consequent higher birth rate, along with the high cost of property and increased mortgage rates, which place the realisation of "a home of their own" out of the reach of many people. The completion of the Peel Street, Abergele, and Cae Maes, Llanddulas, schemes will undoubtedly reduce much hardship concerning council house applicants.

The inadequacy of sewage facilities in the Llanddulas area has caused me concern during the relatively short period since commencing my duties in the district, and I am also aware of the Council's concern. It is anticipated that a relatively early start is to be made on the Council's proposals for new works and sewer extensions within the area.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman, and the members of the Health Committee, for your encouragement and help during my initial period. I am grateful also to Mr. Frank Evans, who has proved a very competent and loyal colleague ; also to my fellow officials in other departments, for their co-operation.

Yours sincerely,

F. P. PEACH,

Medical Officer of Health.

Vital Statistics

| | |
|--|----------|
| Area (in acres) of Urban District | 7965 |
| Population—Census (1961) | 7539 |
| Population Registrar-General's Estimate (mid 1964) ... | 9000 |
| Number of inhabited houses | 3216 |
| Rateable value | £451,091 |
| Sum represented by a penny rate | £1,780 |
| Houses built by the Council in 1964 | Nil |
| Houses built by private enterprise in 1964 | 241 |

LIVE BIRTHS—

| | Male | Female | Total |
|----------------------------------|------|--------|-------|
| Total | 79 | 62 | 141 |
| Legitimate | 74 | 56 | 130 |
| Illegitimate | 5 | 6 | 11 |
| STILL BIRTHS (legitimate) | 1 | 0 | 1 |

DEATHS OF INFANTS (under 1 year)—

| | | | |
|---------------------|---|---|---|
| Total | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Legitimate | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Illegitimate | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Deaths of Infants (under 4 weeks)—

| | | | |
|---------------------|---|---|---|
| Total | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Legitimate | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Illegitimate | 0 | 0 | 0 |

| | | | |
|---------------|----|----|-----|
| DEATHS | 81 | 68 | 149 |
|---------------|----|----|-----|

RATES—

Birth Rate (per 1,000 population)—

| | |
|----------------------|-------|
| (a) Crude | 15.60 |
| (b) Corrected | 23.20 |

| | |
|--|------|
| Comparability figure for births | 1.49 |
|--|------|

| | |
|--|------|
| Illegitimate Birth Rate (per cent of live births) | 7.70 |
|--|------|

| | |
|--|------|
| Still-birth rate (per 1,000 total births and still-births) | 7.10 |
|--|------|

Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 births)—

| | |
|---------------------|-------|
| Total | 21.20 |
| Legitimate | 23.00 |
| Illegitimate | 0.00 |

| | |
|---|-------|
| Neo-natal Mortality Rate (Deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 live births) | 21.20 |
| Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (Deaths under 1 week per 1,000 births)) | 21.20 |
| Peri-natal Mortality Rate (Still-births and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still-births) | 28.20 |
| Maternal Mortality Rate) | Nil |
| Death Rate— | |
| (a) Crude) | 16.60 |
| (b) Corrected) | 10.40 |
| Comparability factor for deaths) | 0.63 |

The following table shows the vital statistics for the past nine years :

| | 1956 | 1957 | 1958 | 1959 | 1960 | 1961 | 1962 | 1963 | 1964 |
|--------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Population | 7230 | 7270 | 7350 | 7490 | 7630 | 7920 | 7930 | 8200 | 9000 |
| Births | 83 | 89 | 84 | 107 | 118 | 104 | 136 | 130 | 141 |
| Birth Rate | 12.6 | 13.3 | 12.5 | 14.2 | 15.4 | 13.3 | 17.1 | 15.4 | 15.6 |
| Still-births | 3 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 1 |
| Still-birth rate | 0.32 | 0.27 | 0.4 | 0.25 | 0.12 | *37 | 15.2 | 22.5 | 7.1 |
| Infant Deaths | 4 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 3 | 3 |
| Infant Death Rate | 48 | 22.4 | 11.9 | 18.7 | 8.4 | 28.8 | 36.7 | 23 | 21.2 |
| Deaths | 137 | 128 | 104 | 144 | 116 | 114 | 143 | 145 | 149 |
| Death Rate | 15.2 | 14.2 | 11.4 | 15.5 | 16.9 | 14.4 | 18.0 | 17.8 | 16.6 |

*Until 1961 calculated as still-births per 1,000 population.

After 1961 calculated as still-births per 1,000 births and still-births.

The ages at which deaths occurred were :—

| Years | Male | Female | Total |
|----------------|------|--------|-------|
| 0— 1 | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| 1— 4 | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| 5— 9 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 10—14 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 15—24 | 4 | 1 | 5 |
| 25—34 | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| 35—44 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| 45—54 | 4 | 3 | 7 |
| 55—64 | 15 | 5 | 20 |
| Over 65 | 56 | 56 | 112 |
| | 86 | 68 | 154 |

These figures differ from those supplied by the Registrar-General, who allocated 81 male and 68 female (total 149) to Abergele. This is no doubt because of variation in allocation—some who died in Abergele were probably not finally counted in our list.

The causes of death at different periods of life were :

| Cause of Death | Sex | Total all ages | Under 4 weeks | 4 weeks & under 1 yr | Age in Years | | | | | | | | | | 75 and over |
|--|-----|----------------|---------------|----------------------|--------------|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|---|-------------|
| | | | | | 1— | 5— | 15— | 25— | 35— | 45— | 55— | 65— | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 10. Malignant Neoplasm, stomach | M | 3 | | | | | | | | | | | 3 | | |
| | F | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | 2 | |
| 11. Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus | M | 5 | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | 3 | | | |
| | F | 2 | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | | |
| 12. Malignant Neoplasm, breast | M | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | F | 2 | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | | | |
| 13. Malignant Neoplasm, uterus | M | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | F | 1 | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | |
| 14. Other malignant and lymphatic Neoplasms | M | 8 | | | | 1 | | | | | 1 | 4 | 2 | | |
| | F | 6 | | | 1 | | | | | | 1 | 1 | 3 | | |
| 15. Leukaemia, Aleukaemia | M | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | |
| | F | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 16. Diabetes | M | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | F | 1 | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | |
| 17. Vascular lesions of nervous system | M | 12 | | | | | | | | 1 | 4 | 2 | 5 | | |
| | F | 14 | | | | | | | | | | 2 | 12 | | |
| 18. Coronary disease, Angina | M | 19 | | | | 1 | | | 2 | 3 | 7 | 6 | | | |
| | F | 9 | | | | | | | 2 | 1 | 3 | 3 | | | |
| 19. Hypertension with heart disease | M | 1 | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | |
| | F | 2 | | | | | | | 2 | | | 2 | | | |
| 20. Other heart disease | M | 4 | | | | | | | | 1 | | | 3 | | |
| | F | 8 | | | | | | | | 1 | 2 | 5 | | | |
| 21. Other circulatory disease | M | 1 | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | |
| | F | 5 | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | 3 | | | |
| 22. Influenza | M | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | F | 2 | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | | |
| 23. Pneumonia | M | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | |
| | F | 2 | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | | |
| 24. Bronchitis | M | 11 | | | | | | | | | 2 | 4 | 5 | | |
| | F | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | 2 | | |
| 25. Other diseases of respiratory system ... | M | 1 | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | |
| | F | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum | M | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | F | 1 | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | |
| 28. Nephritis and Nephrosis | M | 2 | | | | 1 | | | | | | | 1 | | |
| | F | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | |
| 32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases ... | M | 7 | 2 | 1 | | | | | 1 | 1 | | | 2 | | |
| | F | 6 | 1 | | | | | 1 | | | | 1 | 3 | | |
| 33. Motor vehicle accidents | M | 1 | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | |
| | F | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 34. All other accidents | M | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | |
| | F | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 35. Suicide | M | 3 | | | | 2 | 1 | | | | | | | | |
| | F | 2 | | | | | 1 | | | | | | 1 | | |
| Total all causes | M | 81 | 2 | | 1 | | 4 | 3 | | 5 | 13 | 25 | 28 | | |
| | F | 68 | 1 | | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 16 | 40 | | |

General Provision of Health Services in the Area

1. BACTERIAL :

In the control of disease, an efficient Bacteriological Laboratory is essential. This exists at Bryn Hyfryd, Conway, where the Ministry of Health have established a centre for the examination of any specimens sent by Health Department and Family Doctors.

2. PROPHYLACTIC AND THERAPEUTIC AGENTS :

Smallpox vaccine, lymph and gamma globulin are stocked at the Public Health Laboratory, Conway.

Typhus vaccine, rabies vaccine and anthrax vaccine, for prophylactic use only, are held at the Public Health Laboratory, 126 Mount Pleasant, Liverpool (Tel. Royal 3636). Anthrax vaccine for therapeutic use is held at Fazakerley Hospital, Liverpool (Tel. Aintree 2324) (24-hour service).

Snake, anti-venom and Boltulinus anti-serum are held at the C. & A. Hospital, Bangor (Tel. Bangor 3321) (24-hour service).

Anti-yellow fever vaccine is obtainable at the Regional Blood Transfusion Centre, Hatton Gardens, Liverpool (Tel. Central 8433), and inoculations are given by appointment only.

Anti-cholera, anti-tetanus, diphtheria and whooping cough vaccines must be obtained through the usual trade channels.

Anti-vaccine for tropical snakes is held only at the Dispensary, Royal South Hants., and Southampton Hospital, Southampton (Tel. Southampton 26211) (24-hour service).

It may be noted that the issue of Gamma Globulin has increased considerably. Women who in the first three months of pregnancy develop German Measles, tend to have gravely deformed babies. Should any woman in the early months of pregnancy be exposed to German Measles, she should report this to her doctor, who may feel it wise to inject Gamma Globulin as a preventative.

3. PATHOLOGICAL AND BIOCHEMICAL :

Doctors send specimens to the Pathological Department at the Royal Alexandra Hospital, Rhyl. Thus they get help in the diagnosis and treatment of diseases.

4. WATER :

(a) *Bacteriological* : Bacteriological sampling of the water is carried out periodically to ensure that it is free from disease arising from organisms. All samples taken during the year were satisfactory.

(b) *Chemical* : This test is made to find if there are chemical contaminations in the water or oxidised materials. They give valuable information as to the type of water, the gathering ground, the state of the water mains, plumbo-solvency, etc.

(c) *Chlorine Test* : All water supplied to Abergele is chlorinated and the Surveyor and his staff carry out periodic estimates on the free chlorine in the water.

5. MILK AND OTHER FOODS :

(a) *Keeping Quality* : The state of the milk before it reaches the processing plants is tested by the County Public Health Officer.

I am more interested in the state of the milk when it reaches the housewife. Milk received by consumers is sampled periodically at the Public Health Laboratory, Conway.

(b) *Contamination* : The Food and Drugs Inspector to the Denbigh County Council takes samples of milk and has them tested for adulteration.

6. FOOD AND DRUGS :

I am indebted to Mr. D. Hugh Owens, Chief Inspector under the Food and Drugs Act for Denbighshire, for the following report :

COUNTY OF DENBIGH

Particulars of Samples taken under the Food and Drugs Act,
in Abergele Urban District, during the year ended
31st December, 1964

| Article | No. taken | Genuine | Not Genuine, or Sub-standard |
|--------------------|-----------|---------|---------------------------------|
| MILK | 24 | 24 | — |
| Pepper | 1 | 1 | — |
| Sausages | 1 | 1 | — |
| Ice Cream | 2 | 2 | — |
| Ice Lollies | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Iced Drink | 1 | 1 | — |
| Beer | 1 | 1 | — |
| Totals | 32 | 31 | 1 |

As will be observed from the above Table, twenty-four samples of milk and eight samples of other foods were taken in the Abergele Urban District during the year. The only sample which gave cause for complaint was a sample of ice lollies, the wrapper of which declared that it contained fruit juice, but none was found. A visit was paid to the premises where the ice lollies were made, and on

investigation it was found that although the appropriate amount of fruit juice was put into the bulk, it was not evenly distributed throughout the product and some was lost in processing. This was brought to the attention of the manager, who promised to have corrections made forthwith, and further samples which have been taken since have proved to be genuine and up to the required standard.

D. HUGH OWENS,

Chief Inspector, County of Denbigh.

17 Vicarage Hill, Wrexham.

15th April, 1965.

AMBULANCE.

The Ambulance Service in the area is provided by Denbighshire County Council. The work is carried out by a full-time paid driver and also by the Abergele Voluntary Ambulance Corps, which has been given charge of an ambulance.

During the day, the services are maintained by a paid driver, assisted, when necessary, by members of the Corps. From 6 p.m. until 7-30 p.m. on each week-day and Bank Holidays, the ambulances are manned by members of the Voluntary Corps. During the year, the full-time driver conveyed 2,915 patients and covered a mileage of 25,412. The number of calls received by the Abergele Voluntary Ambulance Corps was 211 ; 289 patients were conveyed, and the total mileage run was 6,661 miles. In all the members of the Corps spent an aggregate of 509 hours on duty.

NURSING IN THE HOME :

There are two nurses resident in the area. They attend on and treat sick persons on the request of the family doctor.

Home Helps are provided by the County Council to help in housework during a temporary indisposition of a housewife. This service is administered through my office—applications for assistance should come here.

CLINICS :

Clinics are provided by the County Council. They are held as follows :

1. Child Welfare :

Pentre Mawr, Abergele, THURSDAY at 2 p.m. each week.

Beulah Schoolroom, Llanddulas : FIRST MONDAY each month at 2 p.m.

Merchandise Hall, Kinmel Bay : FIRST WEDNESDAY in each month at 2 p.m.

2. Orthopaedic :

Colwyn Bay Clinic, Nant-y-Glyn Road : Alternate
THURSDAYS at 11 a.m.

3. Ophthalmic :

As required : appointments are made for an Ophthalmic
Surgeon to attend at Nant-y-Glyn Clinic, Colwyn Bay.

4. Dental :

By appointment at Pentre Mawr, Abergele.

5. Tuberculosis :

Rhyl (ordinary clinic) : Fridays 9 a.m. until noon—Royal
Alexandra Hospital.

Rhyl (refill clinic) : Friday 2 p.m. at the Royal Alexandra
Hospital.

Colwyn Bay : At the West Denbighshire Hospital, Hesketh
Road, 1st and 3rd Thursday at 2 p.m.

DAY NURSERIES :

There are no day nurseries in the area.

TUBERCULOSIS :

The state of the Register at the beginning and end of the year
was as follows :

| On Register 1-1-64 | | On Register 30-12-64 | |
|--------------------|----|----------------------|----|
| Pulmonary— | | Pulmonary— | |
| Male | 31 | Male | 30 |
| Female | 16 | Female | 13 |
| Non-Pulmonary— | | Non-Pulmonary— | |
| Male | 3 | Male | 1 |
| Female | 2 | Female | 2 |
| Total | | Total | |
| 52 | | 46 | |

INFECTIOUS DISEASES :

The following table shows the incidence of Infectious Diseases notified to me during 1964 :

| Cases Notified | At all ages | Under 1 year | 1 and under 5 | 5 and under 15 | 15 and under 25 | 25 and under 45 | 45 and under 65 | 65 and over |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|--------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------|
| Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis | 1 | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — |
| Pulmonary Tuberculosis | 2 | — | — | — | 1 | — | 1 | — |
| Pneumonia | 5 | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | 4 |
| Scarlet Fever | 1 | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Sonne Dysentry | 2 | — | — | — | — | 1 | 1 | — |
| Whooping Cough | 6 | 1 | 5 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Measles | 64 | 1 | 42 | 20 | 1 | — | — | — |
| Erysipelas | 5 | — | 1 | 1 | — | — | 2 | 1 |
| Totals | 86 | 2 | 49 | 21 | 3 | 1 | 5 | 5 |

IMMUNISATION :

Smallpox :

A total of 78 persons received primary vaccination and 28 were re-vaccinated during 1964. This is almost double the number of primary vaccinations received during 1963. The change in policy of offering primary vaccination during the second year of life instead of at three months of age, does not appear to have lowered the acceptance rate. Although, fortunately, attacks of smallpox are relatively rare in this country, a low immunity index as at present exists is undesirable and necessitates the initiation of emergency methods should a case be reported into our vulnerable populace. These measures invariably involve vaccination on a relatively large scale, many of the recipients being adults getting vaccinated for the first time. In the child below five years of age, primary vaccination can be regarded as a safe operation, but in older children or adults, complications are much more frequently encountered. Therefore, vaccination in infancy positively minimises the risk of serious sequelae should it be necessary to re-vaccinate an older person in an emergency.

Triple Antigen (Diphtheria, Tetanus and Whooping Cough) :

119 children received a primary course of triple antigen during the year, whilst 174 received booster doses. The acceptance rate has been maintained compared with previous years.

The primary course is initiated at three months of age and completed by the 6th month. Booster doses are given at 20 months and every 5 years from school entry.

Polionmyelitis : 138 children received a primary course of anti-polionmyelitis vaccine whilst 95 received booster doses. Almost all of the vaccine administered was salin vaccine and given by mouth. This acceptance rate is satisfactory.

Tuberculosis :

60 pupils were skin tested for Tuberculosis during the year. 7 were found to give a positive reaction. 50 gave a negative reaction and 50 pupils were given B.C.G. vaccination.

A positive reaction to the testing—the so-called “ Mantoux Test ”—does show that a person has been, at some time in his or her life, exposed to Tuberculosis but not necessarily suffering from the disease. Whenever a positive reaction is found, full investigation of the patient and possible source of the infection is carried out.

Mr. G. V. Gethin, Surveyor to the Abergele Council, has given me the following statement on the Glyn Lws water supply :—

“ Owing to the average summer experienced last year, no great shortage of water occurred, but nevertheless it was necessary to call on our neighbours for assistance in the early part of the summer. This was done to maintain the level in Glyn Lws Reservoir, thus ensuring a continuous supply to Rhydyfoel. Odd patches of discolouration again appeared, but the incidence of these was less than usual and the water supplied was palatable.

“ Now that the worries of this undertaking have been passed on to the new Board, I should like to record my personal thanks to my brother officers in the neighbouring Authorities for the very considerable assistance given to me during my term of office. In particular to Mr. Round, for his experience and knowledge ; to Mr. Wilman for his readiness to help with supplies at all times, and to Mr. Wardle, for his willingness to give me his time, experience and knowledge at all hours. Without the help of these gentlemen, life would have been very much more difficult than it was.”

I am also indebted to Mr. J. Round, Engineer and Manager to the West Denbighshire and West Flintshire Water Board at Rhyl, for the following report on the water supplied to the area :

“ The Rhyl Water Undertaking's direct source of supply is a gathering ground in the Parish of Llanefydd. This gathering ground has an area of 900 acres and an average rainfall of 30.27 inches. The water is stored in two impounding reservoirs—Plas Uchaf (storage capacity 50 million gallons) and Dolwen (48 million gallons). This source is supplemented, except during very wet periods, by pumping water from the River Aled into Plas Uchaf Reservoir. In dry weather, an adequate flow in the River Aled is maintained by releasing water from two other impounding reservoirs—Llys Aled (375 million gallons) and Aled Isaf (270 million gallons) situated on the Denbigh Moors, near Llansannan.

“ The water is chlorinated at a dosage of about 1 part per million as it leaves Plas Uchaf Reservoir and is treated at Glascoed Filter Station by pressure filters of the air scour type using sulphate of alumina as a coagulant and sodium carbonate for pH correction. 0.5 parts per million of chlorine are added after filtration for final sterilization of the water.

“ The annual rainfall for 1964 on the Llanefydd gathering ground was 24.74 inches compared with the long term average of 30.27 inches.

Consumption of water in Abergele (estimated) during 1964

| | Total monthly consumption | Average daily consumption during month |
|------------------|---------------------------|--|
| January | 12,151,000 | 392,000 gallons |
| February | 11,785,000 | 406,000 gallons |
| March | 13,106,000 | 423,000 gallons |
| April | 12,643,000 | 421,000 gallons |
| May | 15,049,000 | 485,000 gallons |
| June | 15,725,000 | 524,000 gallons |
| July | 18,100,000 | 584,000 gallons |
| August | 17,732,000 | 572,000 gallons |
| September | 15,053,000 | 502,000 gallons |
| October | 13,384,000 | 432,000 gallons |
| November | 12,560,000 | 419,000 gallons |
| December | 12,961,000 | 418,000 gallons |
| Total | 170,249,000 | |

Bacteriological Tests of Treated Water

| | |
|--|-----|
| Number of samples sent to Public Health Laboratory, Conway | 121 |
| Number returned as Class 1 (satisfactory) | 109 |

Chemical results in parts per million

| | |
|---|-------------|
| Appearance : Bright with a few particles. | |
| Turbidity (A.P.H.A. units) | Less than 3 |
| Colour (Hazen) | 6 |
| Odour | Nil |
| pH | 7.2 |
| Free Carbon Dioxide | 5 |
| Electric Conductivity | 220 |
| Dissolved Solids dried at 180°C. | 145 |
| Chlorine present as Chloride | 24 |
| Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate | 35 |

| | |
|--|--------|
| Hardness | 75 |
| Carbonate | 35 |
| Non-carbonate | 40 |
| Nitrate Nitrogen | 3.3 |
| Nitrite Nitrogen | Absent |
| Ammoniacal Nitrogen* | 0.06 |
| Residual Chlorine | 0.06 |
| Fluoride | 0.06 |
| Metals : Iron, Zinc, Copper, Lead and Manganese | Absent |

* To convert to Ammonia multiply by 1.21.

This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from iron and other metals. The water is fairly soft in character and contains no excess of mineral or saline constituents. It shows only a trace of colour and is of very satisfactory organic quality.

From the aspect of the chemical analysis, these results are indicative of a pure and wholesome water suitable for public supply purposes.

New Works :

A new 8" main from St. George to Maes-y-Dre with a 4" extension main is to be laid during 1965 to improve the supply to the town and particularly to the high level areas.

Regrouping of Water Undertakings :

The West Denbighshire and West Flintshire Water Board Order, 1964, provides for the transfer of thirteen water undertakings, including those of the Rhyl Urban District Council and the Abergele Urban District Council, to the Board on the 1st April, 1965, and as from that date the Board becomes responsible for all water supplied in Abergele.

(Signed) JOHN ROUND,
Engineer and Manager.

Annual Report of the Public Health Inspector for the Year 1964

Table I

GENERAL STATISTICS

| | |
|---|-----|
| No. of complaints received and attended to | 49 |
| No. of inspections for detection of nuisances | 180 |
| No. of re-visits in connection with nuisances | 98 |
| No. of nuisances abated | 27 |
| No. of nuisances not abated, but work in hand | 20 |
| No. of Informal Notices served for the abatement of nuisance | 27 |
| No. of Formal Notices served for the abatement of nuisance | 0 |
| No. of Visits re Caravan Sites | 137 |
| No. of Visits re Tenting Sites | 95 |
| No. of Inquiries re Infectious Diseases | 6 |
| No. of Visits to Slaughterhouse | 479 |
| No. of Visits to premises where food is prepared and sold ... | 227 |
| No. of Visits to Ice Cream Shops | 51 |
| No. of Samples taken of Ice Cream | 36 |
| No. of Visits re Water Supply | 52 |
| No. of Water Samples taken | 39 |
| No. of Visits re Rodent Control | 13 |
| No. of Inspections of Factories | 9 |
| No. of Miscellaneous Visits | 142 |
| No. of Interviews | 306 |
| No. of Visits re Shops Act | 5 |

Table II

SANITARY DEFECTS

| | |
|---|----|
| No. of defective or choked drains | 24 |
| No. of defective W.C. Accommodation and Sanitary Fittings | 4 |
| No. of defects in water supply fittings | 1 |
| No. of defective roofs or chimney stacks | 2 |
| No. of defective rainwater fittings | 1 |
| No. of damp conditions of houses | 5 |
| No. of miscellaneous nuisances | 29 |

Table III

HOUSING STATISTICS

| | |
|--|----|
| 1.—Inspection of dwellings during year : | |
| (a) Total number of dwellings inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts) ... | 39 |
| (b) Number of Dwelling Houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation | 3 |
| (c) Number of Dwelling Houses (exclusive of that referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation ... | 35 |
| 2.—Number of Dwelling Houses rendered fit in consequence Informal Action | 17 |
| 3.—Number of houses in respect of which Formal Notices Public Health Act, 1936, were served | 0 |
| 4.—Demolition as a result of Informal Action : | |
| Number of individually unfit houses demolished by the owners | 1 |
| 5.—Number of Demolition Orders made as a result of Formal Action | 4 |
| 6.—Number of houses closed as a result of Formal Action | 0 |
| 7.—Number of houses closed as a result of Informal Action | 0 |
| 8.—Number of Certificates of Disrepair issued under the Rent Act, 1957 (Form J) | 0 |
| 9.—Number of improvement grants made under the House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959 : | |
| (a) Discretionary | 10 |
| (b) Standard | 3 |

Housing

The subject of housing continues to pose interesting problems, and the securing for all the residents of housing accommodation which is adequate and suitable for their needs is a task which appears always to remain uncompleted, due no doubt to ever-changing circumstances and factors.

During the year all new housing accommodation was provided by private enterprise ; the Council's two Schemes—Peel Street, Abergele, and Cae Maes, Llanddulas—were still in the preparatory stages. Two hundred and forty-one new dwellings, mostly bungalows, were completed during the year, and many more were under construction. For the past five years approximately two hundred new dwellings has been the annual achievement in the provision of new housing. The majority of these new dwellings have become occupied by persons moving in to the area, and little effect is shown on the number of applicants for Council houses.

Varied conditions are found in the older houses. A comparatively small number remain which will be demolished as new housing is provided. In some districts small blocks of houses remain which lack modern amenities such as bathrooms and hot water facilities. Quite a number of such houses are being modernised with the aid of improvement grants. New Housing Act powers are now available to require the compulsory improvement of houses. The procedure is involved and can be prolonged, and it is felt that it is better to encourage owners to voluntarily carry out the modernisation. In some areas modernisation is impracticable until main drainage facilities, now under consideration, are available.

The large terraced properties in Pensarn present many different problems. Although old, they are in the main sound in construction. Some are very well maintained, some are neglected, especially the rear portions. Some are being given over more and more to business use ; some are being converted into holiday flatlets ; some are used as holiday boarding houses. Some have been converted with the aid of improvement grants into modern self-contained flats, while a few remain in occupation by several families.

The last-named group, classified in official language as " houses in multiple occupation," present in themselves much variety in the standard of accommodation enjoyed by the occupants. A number of owners are responding to the encouragement given to achieve satisfactory standards of repair and domestic accommodation, while in a few cases considerable difficulties have had to be resolved.

The " under-occupation " of houses is a feature which still exists, and where this is so in Council houses, means should be found to overcome the financial problems which can arise when a

move to a new but smaller unit of accommodation would provide an opportunity of adequately housing two or more families.

The task of securing essential repairs to tenanted houses often proves to be surprisingly difficult, due possibly to the cost and also to difficulty experienced by owners in obtaining contractors to undertake the work.

Holiday Caravan Sites

Generally speaking the changes required by the provisions of the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960, have now been completed in our area, and all the coastal land at present scheduled for large-scale holiday camping is now developed. This development was referred to by the speaker at a recent Regional Conference of the National Housing and Town Planning Council as "a great linear town." It occupies about three hundred acres and is, in the main, confined to a very narrow strip of land close to the beach. In approximate figures, stationed on sixty-eight sites there are six thousand one hundred caravans, nine hundred chalets and four hundred chalets of permanent construction. The caravans are static and remain stored on the sites during the winter period when occupation is not permitted.

All the caravan sites are fully occupied and still there is a demand for more. Applications are received for planning permission to develop new sites and sometimes appeals are lodged when permission is refused. One appeal heard recently related to four acres of land situated on the opposite side of the main railway track to the existing large caravan site in the ownership of the appellant. Pedestrian access to the site was available via a footbridge, but vehicular access was available only by pre-arrangement with the Railway Authority.

During the year amendments were made to four of the caravan site licences resulting in small increases in the number of caravans authorised. In four other cases, caravan sites were sold and in accordance with the provisions of Section 10 of the Act, the licences were transferred to the new owners.

It should be recorded that generally site conditions have continued to improve. The high standard of supervision of the sites by the proprietors is reflected in the very small number of complaints which are received. A series of aerial views taken during 1964 demonstrate quite clearly the effects of the Act of 1960, and compare very favourably with aerial views taken when control under the 1936 Act was still in operation.

The unauthorised use of land as caravan sites is a matter which receives prompt attention both by the Council and by the Planning Authority. In one case the Council took successful proceedings

resulting in a fine of £50 being imposed and an award of costs in the sum of twenty-five guineas. In this case, the defendant, admitting the occupation of the site, sought to rely on the provisions of Section 2 and of Paragraph 10 of the First Schedule to the Act. These provisions relate to a travelling showman "who is at the time travelling for the purposes of his business." As there had been a continuous stay on the same site by the same persons of sixteen to twenty weeks, the defence was not accepted.

Perhaps the most intractable problem connected with caravans is the "back garden" site. The exemption authorised by paragraph 1 of the First Schedule to the Act is so worded as to render any control virtually impracticable.

Tented Camping Sites

All local authorities in whose areas holiday camping in tents is an annual occurrence are agreed that the available legal powers of control are quite inadequate. It is known that the Ministry of Housing and Local Government is giving consideration to the problem. Many representations have been made by Local Authority and other organisations. When the subject was discussed at the last Annual Conference of the Association of Public Health Inspectors, the discussion proved to be the longest of the Conference. The allied problems connected with camping on roadside verges and with gipsies and other itinerants are also being given Ministerial consideration.

The law relating to tented camping has remained unchanged since 1936, when limited powers were given in relation to "tents, vans and sheds" and "moveable dwellings." In 1938 the Abergele Council authorised tented camping on fifty-four sites. Caravans and chalets have now ousted the tents from all but one of these sites. This one remaining licensed tented camping site is operated by a neighbouring County Council under conditions which require no control by my Council. It is of course appreciated that, because of the transient nature of the problem and the desirability of avoiding imposing too harsh restrictions, the task of making adequate and suitable powers of control presents difficulties.

At the present time it is not unlawful to conduct tented camping on a site for a continuous period of six weeks at a very high density. Under such circumstances no site licence is required from the Council and there is no conflict of the Minister's Model By-laws, provided ditches, hedgerows and bushes are kept cleared of litter and refuse as often as may be necessary to prevent nuisance. It should be noted that the word "nuisance" is used, not "disamenity."

On August Bank Holiday, 1964, there were twenty sites in use in the urban area for tented camping, on which were stationed about one thousand four hundred tents. A number of the fields

carried fewer tents than normal and I would estimate that normally there are about two thousand five hundred tents in our area on any day during the peak of the holiday season. Six of the sites were in use by organised parties occupying about one hundred and seventy tents, the remaining fourteen sites being used by persons occupying about twelve hundred and thirty tents who paid a daily fee to the site owners. The conditions on these sites varied considerably and I obtained a series of coloured photographs which clearly demonstrated this fact.

Over the past few years great changes have been seen in the appearance, size and construction of tents, and if a site is well laid out and well conducted it can present a colourful scene.

Where high densities are permitted and inadequate supervision and site maintenance prevail, the conditions become intolerable. It is in such cases that the need is felt for those adequate powers of control which we hope will soon be available.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

The completion of the pumping station and storage tanks at Pensarn, and of the sewer extensions eastwards from Belgrano to western edge of the Towyn residential area, have now enabled sewerage facilities to be enjoyed in an area fully developed in the main by caravan sites.

The extensions of sewerage facilities into those areas of Towyn and Kinmel Bay where development is now proceeding quite rapidly are matters which are now receiving active consideration by the Council. Because of the very flat nature of these areas serious problems of surface water drainage are involved and major schemes which will benefit the whole of this area are being evolved.

In the Llanddulas area the Council is anxious to proceed with the proposals for new works and sewer extensions, and it is anticipated that a fairly early start will be made on the scheme which has been prepared. When completed there should be a transformation of the environmental conditions of part of the village of Rhyd-y-Foel and the end of the concern caused by the inadequate sewage works in Llanddulas village.

All these major schemes, together with the scheme covered by the main pumping station and outfall at Kinmel Bay, impose a very heavy rate burden, but it must be accepted that the satisfactory disposal of waste matter is the essential factor in the environmental hygiene of any community.

These necessary and very costly major schemes continue to draw attention away from the needs of other parts of the urban area. The village of St. George still remains without adequate

sewerage facilities. The Llanfair Road area should receive consideration at an early date and the extension of the sewer from the Maes-y-Dre Estate to the Tan-y-Fron area should be investigated.

Rodent Control

The Council's powers and duties in connection with rodent control are contained in the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949. The Scheme, operated jointly by the Abergele, Aled and St. Asaph Councils, continues to function satisfactorily. One full-time operator serves the three Councils. He is quite reliable, is efficient and conscientious. The sewers and other Council properties are treated regularly and treatments are also carried out at agricultural properties, business premises and dwelling houses.

In the majority of cases of infestation there is ready co-operation from the occupiers although occasionally there is subsequent difficulty in collecting the nominal charge which is made for the services of the Operator. During the year, however, one case has arisen which has necessitated statutory action under the provisions of Section 4 of the Act.

The Infestation Control Division of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food supply information which becomes available as a result of research, and the Regional Officer addressed a meeting attended by representatives of many North Wales Authorities on recent developments and referred to a colony of rats found to be resistant to the normal anti-coagulant poison.

Factories

The statutory return in accordance with the provisions of the Factories Acts is included in this report. Again no special comment is required.

Atmospheric Pollution

The area generally is free from serious pollution of the air. Consultations have taken place with H.M. Alkali Inspector and with the Management of an industrial undertaking to ensure that the minimum practicable local pollution occurs, and we are assured that the plant is being so operated.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1961

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health in respect of the Year 1964 of the Urban District of Abergele in the County of Denbigh

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of the Factories Act, 1961

Part 1 of the Act

1.—Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

| Premises (1) | Number on Register (2) | Number of | | | Occupiers prosecuted (6) |
|---|---------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|--|--------------------------------|
| | | Inspections (3) | Written notices (4) | | |
| (i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities | 11 | 3 | — | | — |
| (ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority | 22 | 6 | — | | — |
| (iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) | — | — | — | | — |
| Total | 33 | 9 | — | | — |

2.—Cases in which DEFECTS were found.
(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases.")

| Particulars | Number of cases in which defects were found | | | | Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted |
|---|---|----------|-------------------|----------------------------|---|
| | Found | Remedied | To H.M. Inspector | Referred By H.M. Inspector | |
| (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) | (5) | (6) |
| Want of Cleanliness (S.1) | Nil | — | — | — | — |
| Overcrowding (S.2) | Nil | — | — | — | — |
| Unreasonable temperature (S.3) | Nil | — | — | — | — |
| Inadequate Ventilation (S.4) | Nil | — | — | — | — |
| Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) | Nil | — | — | — | — |
| Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)— | | | | | |
| (a) Insufficient | Nil | — | — | — | — |
| (b) Unsuitable or defective | Nil | — | — | — | — |
| (c) Not separate for sexes | Nil | — | — | — | — |
| Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work) | Nil | — | — | — | — |
| | Nil | — | — | — | — |

PART VIII OF THE ACT. OUTWORK.

(Sections 133 and 134)

Three persons were on the Register of Outworkers.

Shops Act Administration

The provisions of the 1950 Act relating to the health and comfort of shop workers have now been repealed. New and much more extensive provisions are contained in the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963.

The Council continued the practice of making local orders relating to summer-time Sunday Trading.

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963

The main provisions of this Act came into operation on various dates in 1964, and as far as local authorities are concerned it is described as "An Act to make fresh provision for securing the health, safety and welfare of persons employed to work in office or shop premises." The Minister of Labour is responsible to the Government for ensuring that the appropriate authorities carry out their duties under the Act and his Department has been most industrious in the issue to local authorities of Statutory Instruments, Circulars and the like.

The first annual report made under the provisions of Section 60 of the Act contained the following information relating to the registrations of premises where people were employed :

| Class of Premises | Number of Premises registered during the year | Persons employed |
|--------------------------------------|---|---------------------|
| Offices | 26 | 148 |
| Retail Shops | 51 | 181 |
| Wholesale Shops, Warehouses | 2 | 14 |
| Catering establishments and canteens | 9 | 85 |
| Fuel Storage depots | 2 | 4 |
| Totals | 90 | 432 |

Of the total of 432 persons employed, 200 were male and 232 female.

It is quite obvious that a large proportion of the premises to which the Act applies have not yet been registered. By Section 49 of the Act the duty to notify the local authority is clearly placed on the person who employs others in office and shop premises, and failure to do so constitutes an offence. When routine inspections can be carried out the opportunity will be taken to build up a complete register.

Miscellaneous

It is well known that rapid development is taking place in many parts of our area, and this is changing the character of those areas from rural to urban. This development is accompanied by many problems, and its control must be an urgent and major item for consideration by the Planning Authority. This development makes many demands on the existing main services such as water supply, foul and surface water, sewerage, refuse collection and disposal. Schemes to ensure adequate services, in addition to the coast protection scheme now proceeding in Kinmel Bay, involve very heavy capital expenditure. The residential development occurring in Kinmel Bay is serving to emphasise the urgent need to carry out the construction of adequate roads to serve both the existing and the new properties.

The construction of the Abergele By-Pass road will involve much disturbance of existing land uses and no doubt consideration is being given to the accommodation on new sites of existing development which has to be displaced. The whole physical character of the village of Llanddulas will be altered by this By-Pass and its effects must be of very considerable interest to the Council, the Planning Authority, and, of course, to the local residents. Although this scheme is imminent, to many persons who will be directly affected and possibly to the Council there are still many unknown factors connected with it.

During the year the powers contained in the Public Health Act, 1961, relating to disamenity were used on several occasions. Buildings and structures have to be so ruinous or in such a dilapidated condition as to be seriously detrimental to the amenities of the neighbourhood before statutory action can be taken. Only such rubbish or materials as results from the demolition of a building can be dealt with under the provisions of the Act.

In many cases the front elevations of buildings are being given a "face-lift," but it is a regrettable fact that in too many cases the back-yards and passages present, in contrast, an appearance which does not in any way enhance the amenity of the area. The abandoned and discarded car is becoming an ever-growing problem, and some means must be found to prevent the development and spread of unsightly dumps of this nature.

The amount of land which is occupied, in parts of our area, by sheds and huts is very considerable. Their lack of good design and construction, their frequent lack of reasonable maintenance, indeed in many cases their prolonged neglect, combine to make "shanty towns" of those areas. These conditions exist where, in the past, development has been sporadic and the use of land waste-

ful. The in-filling of the vacant plots by the building of modern dwellings is taking place and must be completed if the final appearance of those areas is not to be incongruous.

Food Inspection

During the year a total of eleven thousand five hundred and forty-nine animals were slaughtered. All carcasses and organs were examined at the slaughterhouse and all that were fit for human food were stamped in accordance with the Meat Regulations. The following table shows that a very small percentage only of the carcasses and organs was found to be unfit, and also that again no tubercular lesions were found in the cattle.

Although the total number of carcasses inspected showed an increase of one hundred and thirty-five, the number of cattle was reduced from eight hundred and eighty to seven hundred and thirty-five. Inspection fees are now charged and during the first twelve months this system has operated, the income from fees amounted to £391. During the year the co-operation and assistance of the management and the slaughtermen were always readily available when carrying out meat inspection duties.

Samples of the water supply are collected regularly and frequently in order to keep a check on the bacteriological quality. Of the total of thirty-nine samples, only one failed to reach "Class 1"—the highest standard of bacteriological purity. During the summer period, the Llanddulas and Rhyd-y-Foel areas were receiving a mixed supply from four main sources, and all the samples of this mixed supply were found to be bacteriologically satisfactory.

Routine sampling of ice-cream was carried out during the summer months, thirty-six samples being collected from retail premises. Thirty-four samples satisfied the bacteriological standards of Grades 1 and 2 and two only were not satisfactory. Investigations carried out as a result of these two failures had the effect of subsequent samples proving satisfactory.

Details of Meat Condemned at the Abattoir

BEEF :

(a) Complete carcasses : Nil.

(b) Part Carcase and Organs :

96 Oxen—Non-Tubercular Diseases 1236 lbs.

PORK :

(a) Complete Carcasses :

2—Non-Tubercular Disease 250 lbs.

(b) Part Carcase and Organs :

30 parts—Localised Tuberculosis 310 lbs.

4 parts—Other diseases 34 lbs.

VEAL :

1 Complete Calf Carcase (Non-Tubercular Disease 34 lbs.

MUTTON AND LAMB :

10 Complete Sheep Carcasses 322 lbs.

31 Part Carcase and Organs 70 lbs.

(All Non-Tubercular Disease)

TOTAL WEIGHTS CONDEMNED 1 ton 16 lbs.

Other Food Condemned

Canned Fish 8 lbs.

Canned Fruit 155 lbs.

Canned Vegetables 1449 lbs.

Canned Milk 299 lbs.

Canned Meat 438 lbs.

Canned Soup 258 lbs.

Bacon 944 lbs.

Butter 22 lbs.

Canned Puddings 383 lbs.

Frozen Foods 160 lbs.

TOTAL WEIGHT CONDEMNED 1 ton 16 cwt. 3 qr.

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part

| | Cattle excluding Cows | Cows | Calves | Sheep and Lambs | Pigs | Horses |
|---|-----------------------------|------|--------|-----------------------|-------|--------|
| Number killed | 735 | Nil | 26 | 9,230 | 1,558 | Nil |
| Number inspected | 735 | Nil | 26 | 9,230 | 1,558 | Nil |
| All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci— | | | | | | |
| Whole carcases condemned | — | — | 1 | 10 | 2 | — |
| Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ... | 96 | — | — | 31 | 4 | — |
| Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci | 13% | — | 4% | 0.4% | 0.4% | — |
| Tuberculosis only— | | | | | | |
| Whole carcase condemned | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ... | — | — | — | — | 30 | — |
| Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis | — | — | — | — | 2% | — |
| Cysticercosis— | | | | | | |
| Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ... | 2 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Generalised and totally condemned | — | — | — | — | — | — |

